

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a 3' sequence of the GBV-B genome.
- 5 2. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is DNA.
- 10 4. The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said polynucleotide is RNA.
5. A viral expression construct comprising a polynucleotide encoding a 3' sequence of the GBV-B genome.
- 15 6. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
7. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has 100 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 20 8. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has 150 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
9. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 25 10. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 250 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

11. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

5 12. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 1000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

13. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 5000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

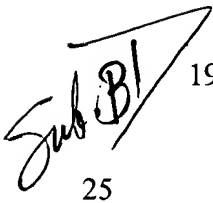
10 14. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

15. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said construct is a plasmid.

15 16. The expression construct of claim 5, wherein said construct is a virus.

17. The expression construct of claim 5, further defined as a construct for the expression of GBV-B.

20 18. The expression construct of claim 5, further defined as a construct for the expression of a chimeric GBV-B/HCV virus.

 25 19. A method of producing a virus comprising:
introducing into a host cell a viral expression construct comprising a
polynucleotide encoding a 3' sequence of GBV-B; and
culturing said host cell under conditions permitting production of a virus from
said construct.

30 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises 100 contiguous nucleotides from SEQ ID NO:1.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.

22. The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 250 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

23. The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

24. The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 1000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises at least 5000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2.

26. The expression construct of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein said host cell is a prokaryotic cell.

28. The method of claim 19, wherein said host cell is a eukaryotic cell.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said host cell is in an animal.

~~30. The method of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises synthetic RNA.~~

~~31. The method of claim 19, wherein said polynucleotide comprises synthetic DNA.~~

32. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of isolating virus from said host cell.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said virus is purified to homogeneity.

34. An oligonucleotide between about 10 and about 259 consecutive bases of SEQ ID
NO:1.

35. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 15 bases in
length.

36. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 20 bases in
length.

37. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 25 bases in
length.

38. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 30 bases in
length.

39. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 35 bases in
length.

40. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 50 bases in
length.

41. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 100 bases
in length.

42. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 150 bases
in length.

43. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 200 bases in length.
44. The oligonucleotide of claim 34, wherein said oligonucleotide is about 259 bases in length.
45. A method for identifying a compound active against a viral infection comprising: providing a virus expressed from a viral construct comprising a 3' sequence of a GBV-B virus; contacting said virus with a candidate substance; and comparing the infectious ability of the virus in the presence of said candidate substance with the infectious ability of the virus in a similar system in the absence of said candidate substance.
46. The method of claim 45, wherein the virus is a GBV-B virus.
47. The method of claim 45, wherein the virus is a GBV-B/HCV chimera.
48. A compound active against a viral infection identified according to a method comprising: providing a virus expressed from a viral construct comprising a 3' sequence of a GBV-B virus; contacting said virus with a candidate substance; and comparing the infectious ability of the virus in the presence of said candidate substance with the infectious ability of the virus in a similar system in the absence of said candidate substance.
49. The compound of claim 48, wherein the virus is a GBV-B virus.

50. The compound of claim 48, wherein the virus is a GBV-B/HCV chimera.

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